

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07475 111456Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EUR-08 SSO-00 NSCE-00
PM-03 SP-02 L-01 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
DODE-00 PA-01 IO-06 ACDA-10 /058 W
-----070789 111503Z /47

O 111346Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1553
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7475

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IN, AF, PK,
SUBJECT: INDIA, AFGHANISTAN, AND PAKISTAN

REF: ISLAMABAD 4634 NOTAL

1. IN A CALL ON FONSEC JAGAT MEHTA TODAY, I ASKED IF INDIA NOW FELT THAT IT HAD ANY CLEARER GRASP ON THE AFGHANISTAN SITUATION AND ITS IMPLCATIONS FOR PAKISTAN AND THE REGION. BASICALLY THE ANSWER WAS NO. INDIA HOPES THAT THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT MEANS WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT NON-ALIGNMENT AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. IT FEELS IT IMPORTANT TO KEEP COMMUNCATIONS OPEN AND COOPERATION GOING IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE AFGAHNISTAN IN THOSE DECLARED POLICIES.
 2. MEHTA SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND RESPECTED SOME OF PAKISTAN FEARS ABOUT THE NEW SITUATION CREATED BY THE AFGHAN COUP BUT HE EXPRESSED CONCERNED LEST THAT ANXIETY DEVELOP
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 07475 111456Z

INTO A SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY. HE DOUBTED THAT PAKISTAN HAS ANY MORE FIRM EVIDENCE THAN INDIA OR WE HAVE FROM WHICH TO PREDICT WHAT FUTURE COURSE AFGHANISTAN WILL FOLLOW AND HE FEARED THAT PAKISTAN MIGHT DELIBERATELY EXAGGERATE THE DANGERS IN ORDER TO BUILD UP SUPPORT FOR ITSELF.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT I THOUGHT NOT ONLY THAT INDIA COULD DO A LOT TO REASSURE PAKISTAN DIRECTLY BUT THAT IT COULD HELP BY MAING CLEAR BOTH TO THE AFGHANS AND THE SOVIETS THE IMPORTANCE WHICH INDIA ATTACHES TO REGIONAL STABLITY AND ITS DESIRE NOT TO HAVE THAT PARTY OF THE SUBCONTINENT BECOME AN AREA OF ACTIVE BIG POWER COMPETITION. OTHER THAN SAYING THAT THAT IS THE MEANING OF NON-ALIGNMENT, HIS REPLY WAS NON-COMMITAL.

4. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW NEXT WEEK WAS PLANNED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, SO THAT IT IS NOT TIED PARTICULARLY TO THE AFGHAN SITUATION. AT THE SAME TIME, HIS CURRENT PLANS INCLUDE A ONE-DAY STOP IN KABUL ON HIS WAY BACK FROM MOSCOW.
GOHEEN

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